

people of the other offshore territories stand ready to assist them in their time of need.

As I said earlier, the people of American Samoa and Western Samoa are a strong and resilient people. I know that their faith and their strong cultural bonds and traditions will help; they meet this present challenge, as they have ones that have come before.

On behalf of myself, my staff and the people of the Virgin Islands, please know that you can count on us in your hour of need, but also as you move forward in recovery and then to address the other longstanding challenges that your leaders so clearly and passionately outlined for us when we were there last month.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the people of American Samoa as they cope with the effects of the powerful earthquake and tsunami that struck American Samoa, Independent Samoa and Tonga yesterday, September 29, 2009.

Our fellow Americans in American Samoa are presently facing tragic losses of life and property as a result of the most devastating of circumstances. It has been reported that survivors of the deadly earthquake-triggered tsunami described how they watched the in-rushing sea swallow up coastal towns and villages leaving devastation in its wake.

At least 111 people are confirmed killed in Independent Samoa, American Samoa's neighbor to the north and on Tonga and officials in the Polynesia region have expressed fears the toll will rise as rescue workers struggle to reach outlying villages submerged and flattened by the wave.

Additionally the island is without telephone service; homes and government buildings have been destroyed and the airport runway has been severely damaged. I applaud President Obama for his prompt response in declaring this a major disaster. I also want to commend our colleague, Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA for his efforts facilitating the relief efforts that are currently underway.

Last month, I had the distinct pleasure of visiting American Samoa where we were graciously hosted by my good friend Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA and the American Samoa Fono. In Pago Pago and the village of Leone, two areas severely hit, we were showered with beautiful and ornate traditional gifts and received with the warmest of welcomes and hospitality.

American Samoans in the Pacific and in the mainland United States are an integral part of our country's history and of our American social fabric. They are our brothers who fight valiantly in our wars and contribute immensely to the prosperity of our country. Today, I send my thoughts and prayers to the victims and their family members in this moment of grief and tragic loss. We stand in solidarity with our brothers and pray for their speedy recovery.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JEREMY BOLON FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION III STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Jeremy Bolon showed hard work and dedication to the sport of baseball; and Whereas, Jeremy Bolon was a supportive coach; and

Whereas, Jeremy Bolon always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Jeremy Bolon on winning the Boys' Division III State Baseball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 baseball season.

INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER DAMIEN DE VEUSTER, SS.CC. TO SAINTHOOD

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution commemorating the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster, a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, to sainthood on October 11, 2009. Some 600 people from Hawaii are traveling to the Vatican to witness his elevation.

As many of you know, Father Damien is recognized for his 16 years of selfless service to the people who were forcibly isolated on the peninsula of Kalaupapa on the island of Molokai, Hawaii, because they were diagnosed with leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease. Living among the people of Kalaupapa from 1873 to 1889, he eventually contracted Hansen's disease and ultimately died and was buried on Molokai.

The policy of exiling persons with the disease that was then known as leprosy began under the Kingdom of Hawaii and continued under the governments of the Republic of Hawaii, the Territory of Hawaii, and the State of Hawaii. Children, mothers, and fathers were forcibly separated and sent to the isolated peninsula of Kalaupapa, which for most of its history could only be accessed by water or via a steep mule trail. Children born to parents at Kalaupapa were taken away from their mothers and sent to orphanages or to other family members outside of Kalaupapa. Hawaii's isolation laws for people with Hansen's disease were not repealed until 1969, even though medications to control the disease had been available since the late 1940s.

I believe that all people, regardless of their religious beliefs, can recognize truly extraordinary persons who give of themselves without reserve for the betterment of their fellow

human beings. Father Damien was surely such a person. No disease was as feared as leprosy in the late 1800s, but he volunteered to serve at Kalaupapa and requested to stay there in order to serve those who most shunned. He recognized the human rights and inherent dignity of all people, especially those he lived alongside at Kalaupapa.

Father Damien worked with those who were isolated at Kalaupapa to improve living conditions. A skilled carpenter, he led in the building of houses and hospitals, six chapels, a home for boys, and a home for girls. At the same time, he ministered to the spiritual and physical needs of his parishioners and helped to bury the hundreds who died during his years there.

It is noteworthy that, shortly after Hawaii became a State, Father Damien was the first selection of the State legislature to be memorialized in a statue as part of the National Statuary Hall Collection. Despite the fact that he was not born in Hawaii and lived so long ago, Hawaii's people recognized that his life embodied the true spirit of aloha (love, compassion, mercy, grace) and malama (to care for).

I have visited Father Damien's church and grave at Kalawao on the Kalaupapa peninsula. I hope that some of you will have the opportunity to visit Kalaupapa at some point in your lives. I know that you will be deeply moved, as I was, by the example of this man, soon to be recognized as a saint, as well as by the courage and perseverance of the people he dedicated his life to serving.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT TILLSLEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Robert Tillsley of Franklin Lakes, New Jersey for his dedicated support to the Boy Scouts of Northern New Jersey as well as Ramapo College and the members of the community of Bergen County. Tonight, Mr. Tillsley is being honored by the Iacopogh Mountains District of the Northern New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts for his commitment to improving the local community. This district serves more than 3,000 youth, guided by 1,000 adult volunteers through 32 Cub Packs, 26 Boy Scout Troops and 6 Venture Crews.

Robert T. Tillsley has been a member and friend of scouting for his entire life. He started as a member of Troop 55 in Paterson, New Jersey, and worked his way up from Patrol Leader to become Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. In November of 1960, he achieved the honor of Eagle Scout and has consistently held true to its creeds—"once an Eagle Scout, always an Eagle Scout."

Mr. Tillsley also supports a variety of commendable organizations outside of the Boy Scouts. He serves as the chairman of the Foundation Board of Governors at Ramapo College and has chaired several board committees over the years. He has worked with McBride Corporate Real Estate since 1988 where he started as a Senior Vice President responsible for the marketing of multi-tenant office buildings and then moved on to